

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-25 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-25 stand rejected.

Claims 1, 6, 11, 16 and 21 have been amended.

Claims 26-55 have been added.

**Title of the Application**

Applicants have amended the Title of the Application to be more clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

**Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 101**

Claims 6-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being unpatentable as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants have amended claim 6 to recited that the storage of various data structures in a memory. As will be appreciated, a data structure stored in a memory has been held to be patentable. *See, In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 32 USPQ2d 1031. Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of Claims 6-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 is thus overcome thereby.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over Greef, et. al., U.S. Patent 6,397,221 (“Greef”). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 6, 11, 16 and 21 to recite that the attribute is within a first domain with regard to the upper level class. This allows a method of the claimed invention, for example, to recognize a situation in which the first attribute’s domain is not appropriate for a lower level class object to inherit, and so should be superceded. The recognition of such situations is not contemplated by Greef. In fact, Greef is focused on the use of attributes to distinguish between Greef’s frames. (col. 12, lines 23-52) Thus, in failing to recognize the advantages of such an approach, Greef fails to anticipate the claimed invention.

This distinction is borne out by new claims 26-30, 32-36, 38-42, 44-48, and 50-54, which recite further detail with regard to the attribute(s) domain(s), as well as the class’(es’) domain value set(s). This recognition and ability to restrict the lower level’s attribute(s) provides efficiency of storage, as discussed in the specification and claimed in new claims 31, 37, 43, 49 and 55. This not contemplated by Greef, as demonstrated by Greef’s “Product Table” of Fig. 17 and the discussion thereof. (col. 28, line 54, through col. 29, line 38) Thus, Greef once again fails to anticipate the claimed invention.

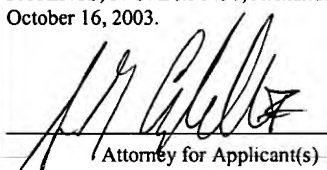
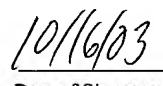
Not only does Greef fail to anticipate the claimed invention, Greef, even in permissible combination with one or more of the other references and/or skill in the art at the time of invention, also fails to show, teach or suggest the claimed invention, as claimed in amended independent claims 1, 6, 11, 16 and 21, for at least the reason that

Greef fails to show, teach or suggest all the elements of those claims. Moreover, one of skill in the art would not look to Greef, or the noted combinations, to show, teach or suggest the elements of the claimed invention because Greef fails to recognize the problems addressed by the claimed invention.

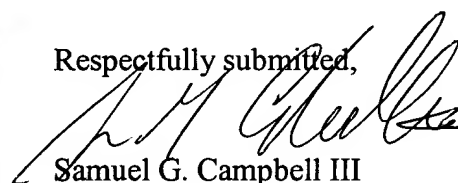
For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the invention, as claimed in amended independent claims 1, 6, 11, 16 and 21, is not anticipated or made obvious by Greef. Applicant further respectfully submits that claims 2-5, 7-10, 12-15, 17-20 and 22-25, which depend from independent claims 1, 6, 11, 16 and 21, are also not anticipated or made obvious by Greef for at least the foregoing reasons. Applicant still further respectfully submits that new claims 26-55, which also depend from independent claims 1, 6, 11, 16 and 21, are also not anticipated or made obvious by Greef for at least the foregoing reasons. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that claims 1-55 are in condition for allowance.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5080.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: <b>Mail Stop [REDACTED] COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS</b> , P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on October 16, 2003.	
	
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